

MINUTES

Mayor's Strategic Opportunities Advisory TEAM Steering Committee Civic Engagement Work Group

Monday, March 12, 2018

- Meeting called to order at 5:00PM
- **Attendees:** Theodore M. Luck, Eran Bosaz, Maria-Teresa Shuck, Dwight Palmer, Kim C. Dine, *Ald. Roger Wilson*.
Absent: Katie Nash, Marien Hornyak. (**Audience:** Barbara Dillon, NAC 11 Coordinator, Phillip LeBlanc, NAC 11)
- Minutes from the February 26, 2018 meeting to be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

Discussion:

NAC information packets distributed to the committee members in attendance and briefly reviewed.

Committee welcomed Barbara Dillon and Phillip LeBlanc, from NAC 11. Ms. Dillon and Mr. LeBlanc proceeded to describe in detail their NAC, as well as the structure and how their meetings are conducted.

- It was reiterated that NACs are one of the most efficient ways to reach out to citizens for engagement. Usage of church bulletins, door hangers and signage was mentioned as ways to promote the NAC meetings.
- Possibility of renaming the NAC to make it more appealing and inviting.
- Possibility of reducing the focus on police matters. Code Enforcement reminders would be good.
- City should take more responsibility and ownership for the NACs.

Discussion ensued regarding cultural and language barriers that may be deterring attendance within certain segments of the population.

- Need to think outside the box in order engage African-Americans, Latin-Americans and other minority groups.
- Start by identifying leaders in these communities.
- Possibility of forming "sub-committees" or "grouping" common interest groups together under the umbrella of the corresponding NAC.
- Suggested that the City perform an internal review on how staff directs itself towards the citizenry. Perhaps facilitate a workshop on how to, or the proper way, to hold a dialog with citizens.
- Question arose whether or not City officials are actually reviewing NAC minutes. If not, what is the point of conducting NAC meetings?
- It was suggested that there should be a paid staff member directly under the Mayor that would serve as support for the different NAC coordinators.

Next Meeting:

- Start drafting our initial recommendations to the Mayor.
- Report shall be mostly composed of short statements and bullets.
- Committee will view a slide presentation on the subject of "engagement".
- Committee agreed that meetings shall continue every other Monday, at 5:00PM. March 26 being our next meeting.

Next meeting: Monday, March 26 at 5:00PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Maria-Teresa Shuck